



# News Release

News for Release: Tuesday, November 13, 2007

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

## **Utility Energy Efficiency Vision Can Save Billions of Dollars While Fighting Climate Change**

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(Washington, D.C. – November 13, 2007) More than 60 energy, environmental and other organizations have collaborated on a new report that could save Americans more than \$500 billion in energy costs over 25 years and reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 90 million vehicles. This report, the National Action Plan for Energy Efficiency Vision for 2025, provides a framework for states, utilities and other stakeholders to consider when seeking policies and programs to achieve all cost effective energy efficiency measures.

"Environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility – and today I'm pleased to see states, utilities and energy customers are taking this motto to heart," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "By committing to conservation, Americans are making the vision for an energy efficient future a reality today."

"Opportunities to increase and maximize energy efficiency in our homes, commercial buildings, and industrial facilities are both enormous and quantifiable and are a key component of the president's robust energy initiatives," Kevin Kolevar, DOE assistant secretary for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, said. "The national action plan recognizes the role of prioritizing energy efficiency through incentive based programs and policies, which can reduce energy use, benefit our environment and add to a company's bottom line."

The action plan, launched in 2006, is facilitated by the Environmental Protection Agency and the Department of Energy. The plan provides five recommendations for helping states and utilities overcome policy, regulatory, and other barriers that limit investment in energy efficiency even when investment in more efficient homes, buildings and industries would cost less than new supply and would lead to overall lower energy bills. Along with the vision for 2025, the Action Plan Leadership Group released a number of 'how-to' resources to help parties meet energy efficiency commitments and announced new commitments under the action plan from more than 30 organizations. The list of organizations and their new commitments can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/eeactionplan> under Leadership Commitments or see below.

The action plan is advancing the dialogue on removing barriers to energy efficiency as a resource to serve electricity customers and promoting policy and program best practices among gas and electric utilities, their regulators and partner organizations. Nearly 120 organizations have already taken action over the past year to make the action plan a reality. These commitments to energy efficiency from 42 utility commissions and state and local agencies, 34 utilities, 9 large-end-users, and nearly 40 other organizations have helped remove barriers to energy efficiency by establishing and supporting new energy efficiency programs, collaborating and the state and local levels, exploring policies to align utility incentives with cost-effective energy efficiency, educating stakeholders and meeting aggressive energy savings goals.

The action plan was developed by a leadership group of more than 60 organizations. The leadership group includes 30 electric and gas utilities, 17 state agencies, and 12 other organizations, with 24 organizations observing the work of the leadership group.

The vision document, additional new resources, and a full list of new commitments and successes to date: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanenergy/actionplan/resources.htm>

New commitments were made over the past year by more than 30 organizations including: Advantage IQ, Arlington County, Virginia; Building Owners and Managers Association (BOMA) International; City of Aurora, Colorado; City of Denver, Colorado; City of Indianapolis, Indiana; City of Medford, Massachusetts; City of Somerville, Massachusetts; Costco Wholesale; Delaware Public Service Commission; Dominion Virginia Power; Great River Energy; Idaho Department of Environmental Quality; Idaho Energy Division; Idaho Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter; Idaho Public Utilities Commission; Indianapolis Power & Light; Kankakee County Housing Authority, Illinois; King County, Washington; Louisville Metro Government, Kentucky; Maryland Energy Administration; Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley; Midwest Independent Transmission System Operator, Inc.; National Association of State Energy Officials; Natural Resources

Defense Council; New Jersey Board of Public Utilities; New Jersey Natural Gas; Orion Energy Systems; Pepco Holdings, Inc; Public Service Commission of Wisconsin; Public Service Electric and Gas Company; San Miguel County, Colorado; Southern Company; Stop & Shop/Giant Foods, Tennessee Valley Authority; Town of Mountain Village, Colorado; United Cooperative Services; United Technologies Corporation; and Whole Foods Market.